

in the step of receiving the indication that the relationship between the domain and the information is to be shown, the indication may indicate that the relationships between the domains and the relationships between the tasks are to be shown.

186. A data storage device set forth in claim 178 further characterized in that:

in the step of receiving a definition of a domain, the definition specifies a relationship between the domain and an existing domain and the system responds thereto by relating the representation of the domain to the representation of the existing domain; and

in the step of receiving the indication that the relationship between the domain and the information is to be shown, the system responds thereto by also showing the relationship between domains indicated in the database.

Remarks

The amendments to the Specification and Drawing

Examiner will immediately see that none of these amendments add new matter.

The new claims

Claims 126-168 are apparatus claims to a "system for supporting collaborative activity", claims 168-177 are claims to "a method of supporting a collaborative activity" and claims 178-186 are Beauregard claims based on the method claims. Examiner will immediately see that the new claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. In particular, the claim term "task" is meant to include the entities which appear in the Goals hierarchy, which are termed "goals" and "initiatives" in the patent application as filed.

Patentability of the new claims

The new claims are a consequence of Applicant's insight that his system is much more than a system for making the management of a business easier. What it actually is a

system for supporting collaborative activities of any kind, done in any context. The system is implemented in a processor that has access to a database and provides an interface to the system to one or more users. There are of course many different kinds of systems for doing collaborative activities; a distinctive aspect of Applicant's system is what are termed *domains* in the Specification. What domains are is a mechanism which permits a user of Applicant's system to define an arbitrary context for the collaborative activities, relate information related to the activities to the domains, and perceive how the information has been related to the domains. All of this is set forth in new claim 126, which reads as follows:

126. A system for supporting a collaborative activity,
the system comprising:

a processor which has access to a database wherein representations of information related to the activity are related to representations of domains which provide a context for the activity; and

an interface to the system for one or more users thereof, the interface being provided by the processor and the interface permitting the users to define a set of arbitrary domains, relate the information to the domains, and perceive how the information has been related to the domains.

A particularly interesting version of Applicant's system is one in which the representations of the information include representations of tasks belonging to the activity (claim 139). In such a system, the interface permits the user to relate the domains to each other and the tasks to each other and to perceive how the domains relate to each other, how the tasks relate to the domains, and how the tasks belonging to a domain relate to each other (claim 142). A particularly useful version of this form of system organizes both the domains and the tasks hierarchically (claim 143). The system for managing a business disclosed in the present patent application is an example of an implementation of the system set forth in claim 143 in which the domains represent the organization of the business for which the tasks are being performed.

Patentability of the new claims

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 are not applicable to the present claims because the claims clearly set forth apparatus comprising a processor and a user interface, the processor producing the limitations which the claim sets forth with regard to the database and the user interface. The claims are thus directed to patentable subject matter for the same reasons that the present claims 36 and 37 are directed to patentable subject matter.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

These rejections are all based on the combination of Lowery and Pearce. Claim 126 as written make no mention whatever of business organizations, and Pearce is irrelevant to the claim for that reason. Pearce is also irrelevant because it provides no disclosure whatever about a database that has "representations of domains". Lowery discloses project management software, and there is also nothing in Lowery that can reasonably be termed a "representation of a domain" as that term is used in the claim or that can reasonably be termed an "interface permitting the users to define a set of arbitrary domains", as required by the claim. Lowery and Pearce thus provide no basis under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103 for rejecting claim 126 or any of the claims dependent therefrom. The other references cited by Examiner also fail to disclose the invention set forth in claim 126 either singly or in combination and thus also do not provide basis for a rejection of the claim under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103. As Examiner will immediately understand, the same arguments apply with regard to claims 169 and 178 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Conclusion

Applicant has replaced the claims as filed with new claims that better set forth his invention and has demonstrated that the references cited thus far do not anticipate the new claims or render them obvious. Applicant has further corrected the defects noted by Examiner in the Specification and Drawing, as well as other defects in the Specification noted by Applicant. Applicant has thus fulfilled the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b) and respectfully requests that Examiner continue with the examination as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.111(a). No fees should be required for this amendment. Please charge any additional fees that may be required the amendment to deposit account number 501315.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon E. Nelson

Attorney of record,

Gordon E. Nelson

57 Central St., P.O. Box 782

Rowley, MA, 01969,

Registration number 30,093

Voice: (978) 948-7632

Fax: 1-866-723-0359

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Goals

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Plan Administrator

View All Goals Show Columns for: Priority ▼

	Cost	Payback	Priority	Due
<u>Expand business with most profitable customers</u>	125,000	16,750,000	5	17w
<u>implement GSTP by yearend</u>	150,000	10,000,000	5	34w
<u>Build an Internet savvy design and install team</u>	1,000,000	5,000,000	4	-5w
<u>Deepen relationships with high net worth clients</u>	750,000	5,000,000	5	6w
<u>Develop a web-based customer self service strategy</u>	450,000	2,800,000	4	21w
<u>Reduce Breakeven on New Business</u>	10,000	2,500,000	4	8w
<u>Implement self service account maintenance</u>	65,000	2,000,000	4	1w
<u>Increase our technology R&D capability</u>	555,555	2,000,000	5	34w
<u>Revisit our product pricing strategy</u>	20,000	1,500,000	5	6w
<u>Achieve a 20% ROI</u>	250,000	1,250,000	5	34w
<u>Implement highly scalable and efficient processes</u>	450,000	1,250,000	5	30w
<u>Increase auto adjudication rates</u>	1,000,000	1,250,000	5	86w
<u>Develop an RFP for professional services support</u>	250,000	1,000,000	5	-3w
<u>Recruit and hire world class industry talent</u>	250,000	1,000,000	5	34w
<u>Select an E-commerce consulting firm</u>	300,000	1,000,000	4	4w
<u>Ask clients about our perceived competencies</u>	10,000	500,000	5	1w
<u>Reduce product development cycle by 6 months</u>	250,000	500,000	4	17w
<u>Have profitable products for every segment</u>	75,000	250,000	5	34w
<u>Resell our back office processing capabilities</u>	50,000	250,000	4	21w
<u>Reduce our AR to under 60 days</u>	5,000	150,000	5	8w

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Fig. 19



Goals ▷ Administor

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View Contributing Goals Show Columns for: Domain ▼

<u>Expand business with most profitable customers</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Payback</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Due</u>
Customers				
Relationships				
Deepen relationships with high net worth clients	750,000	5,000,000	5	6w
Products				
Have profitable products for every segment	75,000	250,000	5	33w
Top Goal Total:	\$825,000.00	\$5,250,000.00		

Agile Manager

Fig. 22



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Goals

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View All Goals Show Columns for: Priority

	Cost	Payback	Priority	Due
<u>Expand business with most profitable customers</u>	125,000	16,750,000	5	17w
<u>implement GSTP by yearend</u>	150,000	10,000,000	5	34w
<u>Build an Internet savvy design and install team</u>	1,000,000	5,000,000	4	-5w
<u>Deepen relationships with high net worth clients</u>	750,000	5,000,000	5	6w
<u>Develop a web-based customer self service strategy</u>	450,000	2,800,000	4	21w
<u>Reduce Breakeven on New Business</u>	10,000	2,500,000	4	8w
<u>Implement self service account maintenance</u>	65,000	2,000,000	4	1w
<u>Increase our technology R&D capability</u>	555,555	2,000,000	5	34w
<u>Revisit our product pricing strategy</u>	20,000	1,500,000	5	6w
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<u>Develop an RFP for professional services support</u>	250,000	1,000,000	5	-3w
<u>Recruit and hire world class industry talent</u>	250,000	1,000,000	5	34w
<u>Select an E-commerce consulting firm</u>	300,000	1,000,000	4	4w
<u>Ask clients about our perceived competencies</u>	10,000	500,000	5	1w
<u>Reduce product development cycle by 6 months</u>	250,000	500,000	4	17w
<u>Have profitable products for every segment</u>	75,000	250,000	5	34w
<u>Resell our back office processing capabilities</u>	50,000	250,000	4	21w
<u>Reduce our AR to under 60 days</u>	5,000	150,000	5	8w

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Fig. 19

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View Contributing Goals Show Columns for: Domain ▼

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Payback</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Due</u>
<u>Expand business with most profitable customers</u>				
Customers				
Relationships				
Deepen relationships with high net worth clients	750,000	5,000,000	5	6w
Products				
Have profitable products for every segment	75,000	250,000	5	33w
Top Goal Total:	\$825,000.00	\$5,250,000.00		

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Fig. 22

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